

Message Text

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FOR AGRICULTURE, FAS, FCA, MEEKER; NOVOTNY

FROM AGRICULTURAL OFFICER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, CH

SUBJECT: PRC--REVISED ESTIMATE FOR 1975 GRAIN PRODUCTION

REF: (A) HONGKONG 14689, (B) HONGKONG 14384, (C) HONGKONG 13520

BEGIN SUMMARY: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION APPEARRING IN DECEMBER 31 HONG
KONG COMMUNIST PRESS STRENGTHENS EARLIER AGRICULTURAL OFFICE ESTIMATES

OF RECORD PRC GRAIN HARVEST IN 1975. NEW ESTIMATE IS 289 MILLION METRIC

TONS OF GRAIN, 5.1 PERCENT HIGHER THAN THE 274.9 MILLION METRIC TONS
HARVESTED IN 1974. END SUMMARY.

1. HONG KONG'S WEN HUI PAO AND TA KUNG PAO TODAY (DECEMBER 31) REPORTED

THAT CHINA IN 1975 GATHERED AN "ALL-ROUND BUMPER GRAIN HARVEST" WITH
PRODUCTION REACHING A NEW HIGH WHICH WAS DESCRIBED AS A MARKED INCREASE

OVER 1974 (NCNA, PEKING, DECEMBER 30, 1975). AMONG INDUSTRIAL CROPS,
OILSEEDS (WHICH INCLUDES SOYBEANS), SUGAR CROPS, TOBACCO, FIBER CROPS
(EXCLUDING COTTON) AND TEA ALL SHOWED INCREASES OVER 1974. COTTON,
HOWEVER, WAS DESCRIBED MERELY AS "A GOOD CROP".

2. ACCORDING TO PRC STATISTICS, "MORE THAN 20" PROVINCIAL-LEVEL
UNITS (OUT OF 29 TOTAL) GATHERED BUMPER HARVEST AND MORE THAN HALF
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OF ALL GRAIN-PRODUCING AREAS IN CHINA ACHIEVED RECORD PRODUCTION.

ONLY FEW AREAS EITHER MERELY EQUALLED 1974 LEVELS OR ELSE SHOWED SLIGHT DECLINE. AMONG OTHER CLAIMS WERE THOSE THAT LIAONING AND TSINGHAI AND JUST BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT IN GRAIN AND THAT NINE PROVINCE-LEVEL (PREVIOUS ONLY SIX) UNITS HAVE NOW EXCEEDED NADP GRAIN-YIELD TARGETS. (NADP IS UNCOMPLETED 12-YEAR PROGRAM FOR NATIONAL

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT WHICH BEGAN IN 1956.)

3. COMMENT: TODAY'S PRESS RELEASES, IN PROVIDING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON 1975 HARVEST RESULTS, SERVE TO STRENGTHEN THE ANALYSIS MADE AFTER NCNA'S NOVEMBER 9 RELEASE (REF C) WHICH WAS BASED ON LESS INFORMATION. RESULTANT COMPUTATIONS (WHICH ALSO INCORPORATED A REPORT IN DEC. 28 WEN HUI PAO, INDICATE THAT ESTIMATED INCREASE OVER 1974 DEVELOPED THROUGH PROVINCIAL-APPROACH MAY BE 4.6 PERCENT, RATHER THAN 3.5 PERCENT (SEE REF C, PARA 6). THAT NARROWS GAP BETWEEN THAT APPROACH AND CROP-APPROACH (WHICH ESTIMATED 1975 INCREASE AT 5.7 PERCENT). RESULT IS MEAN OF TWO PARAMETERS, OR ESTIMAED INCREASE OF 5.1 PERCENT.

4. USING RECENT CLAIM OF 274.9 MILLION METRIC TONS (MMT) FOR 1974 GRAIN HARVEST, NOW FAIRLY WELL RECEIVED BY SOME AS REASONABLE FIGURE (SEE REFS A AND B), AGRICULTURAL OFFICE REVISED ESTIMATE WOULD BE 289 MMT FOR 1975 (I.E. A 5.1-PERCENT INCREASE OVER 1974.

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